

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 SIL-01 LAB-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6048

UNCLAS TOKYO 14974

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV JA

SUBJECT: NEW JAPANESE LABOR MINISTER

SUMMARY: TAKEO OKUBO, MINISTER OF LABOR IN THE RESHUFFLED CABINET, IS A SEVENTY-YEAR OLD LOWER HOUSE DIETMAN. AFTER A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CAREER IN THE TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY, HE WAS ELECTED TO THE DIET IN 1953. DESPITE WIDE PARTY EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN A VARIETY OF ECONOMIC POLICY MATTERS, OKUBO IS NOT WELL KNOWN BY LABOR MINISTRY BUREAUCRATS. END SUMMARY.

1. TAKEO OKUBO (B. 1903 IN KUMAMOTO) GRADUATED FROM PRESTIGIOUS TOKYO UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL AND SPENT HIS EARLY CAREER AS OFFICIAL IN THE TRANSPORT MINISTRY. AFTER WWII HE SERVED AS DIR-GEN OF THE MINISTRY'S TRANSPORT AND SEAMENS BUREAUS (WHERE HE PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE IN SETTLING THE 1946 SEAMENS STRIKE) AND AS FIRST DIR-GEN OF THE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY. HE IS STILL INTERESTED IN MARITIME AFFAIRS AND IS AUTHOR OF SEVERAL ARTICLES AND BOOKS.

2. SINCE ELECTION TO THE LOWER HOUSE IN 1953, OKUBO HAS SERVED AT VARIOUS TIMES IN A VARIETY OF PARTY POSTS INCLUDING; VICE-CHAIRMAN OF PARTY STEERING, VICE-CHAIRMAN OF POLICY RESEARCH, CHAIRMAN OF MARITIME, CHAIRMAN OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY) CHAIRMAN OF

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JUDICIAL COMMITTEES AND PARLIAMENTARY VICE-MINISTER OF

THE TRANSPORT AND FINANCE MINISTRIES.

3. ACCORDING TO ONE PRESS REPORT, 9 OKUBO IS SMEWHAT
DIFFICULT TO APPROACH LARGELY BECAUSE OF HIS IMPOSING
MIEN, BUT REALLY QUITE LIKEABLE. ONE OF HIS HOBBIES
IS WRITING TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HAIKU POETRY.

4. DESPITE WIDE ECONOMIC INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE,
OKUBO HAS SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN LABOR MATTERS AND
IS NOT WELL KNOWN BY LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Subject: NEW JAPANESE LABOR MINISTER SUMMARY: TAKEO OKUBO, MINISTER OF LABOR IN THE RESHUFFLED
TAGS: PGOV, JA, (OKUBO, TAKEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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